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Systems

DCI-IC 74-1114

5 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conferenced Text Editing (CONTEXT), Exploration of CIA
           Capabilities

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      1.⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚ met on 22 February
1974 to discuss the initial project memorandum from ⬚⬚⬚ approved by   STA
General Graham, and to focus on the possible capabilities of CIA to
support the experiment.

      2. The CIA has made an extensive investigation over the past couple
of years and has settled on the Delta Data as the standard CRT for use
by the Agency. This has a Texas Instrument printer as a plug in acces-
sory (other printers are also available, but the TI appears to be the
one in common use). The terminals are driven by the ⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚   STA
time sharing system. CP/CMS 67 EDIT and SCRIPT software packages are
used. This appears to be the system package that is likely to be
available in a reasonable time frame from CIA.

      3. Unofficial working level inquiries of ⬚⬚⬚ indicate that a con-   STA
ference mode of operation is possible, with a capability of compiling
and storing up to three drafts. Hard copies, using the TI printer,
could be made at each terminal. All members of the conference would be
able to see the text, but only the Chairman would be able to effect
changes. Changes by a conference participant can be made by use of
a secure voice conferencing net, installed to run between the terminal
offices. For the proposed CONTEXT experiment, a three station network
is desired, with three CRTs, and using the black telephone for con-
ferencing the three locations. An alternative to the black telephone
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is a speaker-phone circuit. ⬚⬚⬚⬚ IHC/SS is to explore this with CIA/OC.

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      4.⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚⬚ is arranging informally with ⬚⬚⬚ representatives   STA
the preparation of a simple software program for the limited purpose of
presenting for us a hook-up of 3 Delta Data terminals in a conferencing
mode. This experiment will be demonstrated on 27 February, for the
purpose of forming a judgment as to whether the CIA Delta Data capabilities
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are within the ball park for ⬚⬚⬚⬚ to use in conducting the CONTEXT
experiment, or whether we should begin to explore capabilities outside of
CIA.

      a. As a result of the 27 February 74 test, a decision will be
made to act on the following alternatives, as appropriate:

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> (1) Request OJCS formally to provide support to CONTEXT, and undertake a test for a 2 to 4 month period using the CIA CP/CMS system.

> (2) Same as (1), but concurrently investigate other more ideally suited alternatives - i.e., more cost effective, or easier to use, or otherwise apparently preferable having in mind security, growth or other considerations.

> (3) If the CIA system is not satisfactory, proceed at once to investigate other government agency resources and outside contractor resources, costs, time factors, etc.

b. Other considerations that will affect the manner in which a CONTEXT experiment is carried on include the following.

> (1) We expressed concern that a demonstration should not be of a nature to "turn off" potential users. Hence, the experiment should be approached cautiously, and we should be able to crawl before we walk or run.

> (2) To guard against a "bad press" and to simplify the logistic support, we will use members of IC Staff to conduct the tests. This will involve giving some brief training to a number of secretaries in terminal operation, as well as the professional monitoring and direction from ☐ and IHC Staff personnel, and other IC Staffers who may have an interest.

> (3) The IC Staff presently has a paper before the DCI urging that overall community-wide orchestration be provided to better organize the present proliferation of uncoordinated undertakings utilizing CRTs. IC Staff must avoid the charge in CONTEXT of having contributed to that lack of community coordination. Accordingly, a point in time will come when community reaction and involvement should be sought, and this point in time should be early enough so that the community does not react by terming CONTEXT another unilateral effort.

>> (a) It would appear that the focus of the proposed experiment, hopefully with CIA ☐ support, will be on conferencing procedures, and not on determining specifically that certain hardware and software must be adopted.

>> (b) On the other hand, the hardware and software used in the experiment should not be incapable of community-wide application.

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(c) TEMPEST (security) considerations are
a factor for consideration in considering any
system appropriate for community-wide use. In
this connection, we are informed by ☐ people
that the Delta Data terminal has been TEMPEST-
tested by CIA/OC and is not considered to be
very "dirty." Corrective fixes have been iden-
tified, and can be made by OC or a contractor.
CIA ☐ is investigating with a contractor the
costs of making the corrective fixes, both in
production line for new CIA procurement as well
as in delivered units on hand in CIA.

c. If the initial test on 27 February produces satisfactory
results, we will need to enter into a negotiation between D/DCI/IC
and the Director of Joint Computer Services to ascertain whether
CIA ☐ support will be forthcoming, and on what terms. Con-
siderations affecting this matter may include the following:

(1) We understand informally that Delta Data CRTs and
the ports to connect them to the CP/CMS 67 computer will not
be available until around 1 May 1974. There is now a waiting
list of CIA components scheduled to receive terminals, which
are being procured on a time-phased plan from the manufac-
turer.

(2) If the loan of terminals for the experiment is a
problem, the experiment may have to be delayed until ter-
minals are available, or if the priority warrants it may
be necessary to seek to persuade CIA top management to
authorize the experimental use of 3 terminals to preempt
temporarily the delivery of those terminals to other
scheduled users.

(3) Another alternative might be to arrange through
external contract for the rental of Delta Data terminals
for the experiment, with CIA otherwise providing support.

4. The next step is to conduct the demonstration of the Delta Data
in ☐ on 27 February.

Distribution:

STA

Acting Chairman
Intelligence Information Handling Committee

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